

be champs off, and do your country a great service.

It's my honor to welcome you all here. I love championship day at the White House. I love to be around success. I hope you cherish these memories in winning these great championships for a long time coming and use them as an opportunity to work to make your Nation the best it can possibly be.

May God bless your talents, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mark Yudof, president, and Don Lucia, head men's ice hockey coach, University of Minnesota; Kathryn Martin, chancellor, and Shannon Miller, head women's ice hockey coach, University of Minnesota-Duluth; Geno Auriemma, head women's basketball coach, University of Connecticut; and Dan Mote, president, and Gary Williams, head men's basketball coach, University of Maryland. The President honored the University of Connecticut's women's basketball team, the University of Maryland's men's basketball team, the University of Minnesota's men's ice hockey team, and the University of Minnesota-Duluth's women's ice hockey team.

### **Statement on the Peace Process in Sudan**

*May 21, 2002*

Senator Danforth has made considerable progress in helping to bring both sides in Sudan's peace process closer to the negotiating table. I am grateful for Senator Danforth's efforts, and I have asked him to continue to serve as my envoy. The road ahead will be difficult. Lives continue to be lost, and conditions for the people of Sudan are hard.

Achieving peace will require verifiable action by both sides. We must see deeds, not just words. The Government of Sudan cannot make empty promises while continuing to wage war against its own people. It must stop interfering with food deliveries. It must stop attacking civilians. It must honor fully its commitments to Senator Danforth. It must accept that it cannot win the war. It must seek peace.

The United States is committed to helping the aggrieved people of the Sudan. We will continue to urge the parties toward peace

at the talks in Kenya. To achieve a lasting and just peace, all parties at the talks must make every effort to ensure the discussions are a success.

### **Statement on the Establishment of East Timor**

*May 21, 2002*

The United States salutes the establishment of East Timor, the first new nation of the millennium. With those in Dili, we celebrate the successful conclusion of the long struggle of the people of East Timor for an independent nation. We are heartened that the people of East Timor have embraced the path of democracy that will lead their nation to peace and prosperity. On behalf of the American people, I congratulate Xanana Gusmao, who was sworn in as East Timor's first President.

The United Nations has played a pivotal role in bringing East Timor into the family of nations. We praise the contributions and efforts of the international community which helped make the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor a success.

### **Proclamation 7565—National Maritime Day, 2002**

*May 21, 2002*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Our commercial maritime tradition dates back to the founding of our Nation; and it continues to play an important role today, moving passengers and freight, protecting our freedom, and linking our citizens to the world.

Merchant mariners have served America with distinction throughout our history, but especially at critical moments. Before World War II, they made dangerous and difficult voyages carrying vital supplies to Europe. During that war, more than 700 United States merchant ships were lost to attack, and more than 6,000 merchant mariners lost their lives. Merchant mariners played a vital role